

31. (Once amended) A method for the *in vivo* detection of fibrin, said method comprising the steps of:

administering to said patient an effective amount of a detectable reagent comprising discrete particles dispersed in a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable carrier, diluent, excipient, adjuvant or any combination thereof, wherein said particles comprise a detectable marker encased in at least two layers of carbon, wherein upon administration of said reagent said particles are dispersed in an aqueous medium and form a stable colloid;

binding said particles to said fibrin; and

detecting the presence of said detectable marker in said patient.

32. (Once amended) A method for the detection of fibrin in a sample containing fibrin, said method comprising the steps of:

supplying to said sample containing fibrin a detectable reagent comprising discrete particles dispersed in a carrier, diluent, excipient, adjuvant or any combination thereof, wherein said particles comprise a detectable marker encased in at least two layers of carbon, wherein upon administration of said reagent said particles are dispersed in an aqueous medium and form a stable colloid;

binding said particles to said fibrin; and

detecting the presence of said detectable marker in said sample containing fibrin.

41. (Once amended) A detectable reagent for use in *in vivo* or *in vitro* detection of fibrin, said detectable reagent comprising discrete particles dispersed in a carrier,

diluent, excipient, adjuvant or any combination thereof, wherein said particles comprise a detectable marker encased in at least two layers of carbon, wherein said particles preferentially bind to fibrin over other blood plasma proteins and wherein upon administration of said reagent, said particles are dispersed in an aqueous medium and form a stable colloid.

42. (Once amended) The detectable reagent according to claim 41, wherein each of said particles comprises a detectable marker encased in from 2 to 10 layers of graphitic carbon, at least an outer layer of said layers being chemically modified to provide improved chemical association of the modified layers with aqueous solution relative to non-modified layers, thereby forming a stable aqueous colloid.
50. (Once Amended) The method of targeting a drug to a localized fibrin site *in vivo*, the method comprising the steps of:

administering to a patient an effective amount of a reagent comprising discrete particles dispersed in a veterinarily or pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, excipient, adjuvant or any combination thereof, wherein said particles comprise at least two layers of carbon and have coupled thereto a drug to be targeted to the localized fibrin site, wherein upon administration of said reagent said particles are dispersed in an aqueous medium and form a stable colloid; and

binding said particles to said localized fibrin site;

whereby said drug is targeted to said localized fibrin site.

61. (Once amended) The method according to claim 31, wherein a surface of said particles is coated with a surfactant coating that increases the binding efficiency of said coated particles with fibrin relative to uncoated particles.

62. (Once amended) The method according to claim 32, wherein a surface of said particles is coated with a surfactant coating that increases the binding efficiency of said coated particles with fibrin relative to uncoated particles.
63. (Once amended) The detectable reagent of claim 41, wherein a surface of said particles is coated with a surfactant coating that increases the binding efficiency of said coated particles with fibrin relative to uncoated particles.

**Please add new claims 64 – 70:**

64. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein said particles form a nanocolloid upon administration of said detectable reagent.
65. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein said particles form a nanocolloid upon administration of said detectable reagent.
66. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein said particles form a nanocolloid upon administration of said detectable reagent.
67. (New) The method of claim 50 wherein said particles form a nanocolloid upon administration of said reagent.
68. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein said surfactant coating comprises  $C_{16}EO_6$ .
69. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein said surfactant coating comprises  $C_{16}EO_6$ .
70. (New) The detectable reagent of claim 63, wherein said surfactant coating comprises  $C_{16}EO_6$ .